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COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

YEAR 1923.



ANNUAL REPORT

Upon the HEALTH and SANITARY CONDITION

of the COUNTY with

Annual Reports on Burghs of Castle-Douglas,

Kirkcudbright, Dalbeattie, Gatehouse,

and New-Galloway,

BY

JAMES DAWSON, M.A., M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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CASTLE-DOUGLAS:
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1924.

COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

To the Scottish Board of Health, to the County Council of
Kirkcudbright, and Local Authorities.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the County for the year 1923. The Reports for the Burghs are appended as in the past.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DAWSON.

Public Health Office,

Newton-Stewart,

30th April, 1924.

REPORT for 1923.

VITAL STATISTICS.

COUNTY LANDWARD.

The population of the County (Landward) has been estimated by the Registrar-General to be 21,509. The census population was 21,921, thus showing a decrease of 412 in three years. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of births over deaths, during the year amounted to 197. The estimated decrease appears to be based on the emigration of people from the area.

BIRTHS.—The number of births in the Landward area corrected for transcripts and the rates per 1000 of population for the five years under review were as follows :—

Year	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Number of Births	463	443	438	487	365
Birth Rate	21.5	19.9	19.9	24.5	17.7
Illegitimate Births	65	64	67	78	58
Illegitimate Birth Rate per cent.	14.0	14.4	15.3	16.0	15.9

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—Under this Act all births require to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health within thirty-six hours of their occurrence. With a scheme of Child Welfare at work in the County it is most important that all births should be promptly notified. There is still a great discrepancy in some Districts and Burghs between the number of births notified and registered, as the following figures show :—

Districts.	Births Registered.	Births Notified.	Per cent. Notified.
Northern	44	20	45
Southern	214	190	89
Eastern	156	122	79
Western	64	40	62
Burghs.			
Kirkcudbright	37	37	100
Castle-Douglas	52	52	100
Dalbeattie	64	63	100
Gatehouse	14	7	50
New-Galloway	6	6	100

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

The following reports were submitted to the Central Midwives Board for Scotland and the Scottish Board of Health:—

In accordance with Section 23 of the Midwives (Scotland) Act I beg herewith to submit a report upon the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authorities in the Landward area of the County.

1. Northern District.

There are no midwives practising within the area.

Total number of births during 1923 44

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth nil

No births attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

No case of Ophthalmia.

No case of Puerperal Sepsis.

Four cases of Still-birth.

2. Southern District.

There are no midwives practising within the area.

Total number of births during 1923 214

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth 2

No births attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

No case of Ophthalmia.

No case of Puerperal Sepsis.

Four cases of Still-birth.

3. Eastern District.

There are no midwives practising within the area.

Total number of births during 1923 156

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth 2

No births attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

Two cases of Ophthalmia.

No case of Puerperal Sepsis.

No case of Still-birth.

4. Western District.

There is one midwife practising within the area as district nurse on emergency. .

Total number of births during 1923 64

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth 2

No births attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

No case of Ophthalmia.

No case of Puerperal Sepsis.

Three cases of Still-birth.

Emergency case—one (precipitate labour) attended to by relative.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths pertaining to the Landward area of the County was 266. The deaths occurring in Public Institutions and elsewhere outside the Districts, which were accepted and transferred to the Districts where the usual places of residence were situated, numbered 34.

The deaths of non-residents occurring in the Districts and transferred out numbered 10. The death rate was 12.36 per 1000.

Year	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Number of Deaths	266	296	282	308	305
Death Rate per 1000 persons ...	12.36	13.30	12.81	15.52	15.19

The following table shows the classification of deaths according to cause for the years 1919-1923 in the Landward area :—

	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Enteric Fever	—	—	1	—	1
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	2	1	1
Diphtheria	2	—	1	1	4
Influenza	—	6	8	2	6
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	20	14	17	19
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	2	—	3	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	3	2	1	—
Other Tubercular Diseases	5	1	3	2	3
Cancer—Malignant Diseases	38	26	26	39	35
Rheumatic Fever	1	1	—	—	2
Meningitis	1	1	2	2	1
Apoplexy	25	36	25	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	43	41	38	45	33
Diseases of Arteries	1	4	3	—	—
Bronchitis	18	19	15	23	18
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	16	18	16	36
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	6	3	9	3	6
Diarrhœa, Enteritis (under 2 years)	3	2	—	2	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	—	5	3	2
All Liver Diseases (not malignant)	3	5	3	2	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	7	13
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	11	4	6	13
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	1	2	3	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	15	11	25	22	12
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	10	9	11	6	7
Suicide	—	1	1	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	61	72	58	91	80
Diseases Ill-defined or Unknown	2	4	4	9	8
All Causes	266	296	282	303	305

The following table shows the death rates from the more important causes per 1000 of population:—

	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Enteric Fever	—	—	.045	—	.049
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	.045	.050	.049
Scarlet Fever	—	—	.045	.050	—
Whooping Cough	—	.044	.091	.050	.049
Diphtheria .....	.093	—	.045	.050	.199
Influenza	—	.269	.364	.100	.299
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.557	.899	.638	.856	.946
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	.093	.089	—	.151	.099
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	.134	.091	.050	—
Other Tubercular Diseases .....	.232	.044	.136	.100	.149
Cancer—Malignant Diseases	1.763	1.168	1.186	1.965	1.744
Organic Heart Disease	1.999	1.843	1.733	2.268	1.644
Bronchitis .....	.836	.854	.684	1.159	.897
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	.511	.719	.821	.806	1.774
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	.278	.134	.410	.151	.299
Diarrhœa, Enteritis .....	.139	.089	—	.100	—

From the above figures it is seen that there is a very

satisfactory reduction in the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There is, however, an increased death rate from other forms of Tuberculosis.

Pneumonia shows a very gratifying reduction in the death rate.

The apparent rise in the Cancer death rate need not be looked upon as an alarming factor. The rate has been higher in previous years, and is probably the result of a better differential diagnosis.

With reference to the mortality from Cancer, the following abstract of information is taken from a memorandum prepared by the Departmental Committee on Cancer : —

Regarding proclivity to the disease, it is pointed out :—

That hereditary predisposition to Cancer has not at present been proved to be of any practical importance to man.

That it cannot be asserted with scientific authority that the use of any particular article of food increases the liability to Cancer, or prevents it from appearing.

That no known drug or preparation will prevent its appearance or cure it when present ; and

That no danger of Cancer has been proved to result from inhabiting houses or districts in which Cancer happens to have been exceptionally common.

There is no evidence to show that Cancer is an infectious or contagious disease.

It is pointed out that in a population of 37,885,242 persons in England and Wales in 1921 a total of 46,022 deaths were attributed to Cancer.

In the space of two generations the recorded mortality has trebled. Improved diagnosis and more accurate certification will not, it is stated, account for the whole of the recorded increase.

The most rapid increase in the death rate from Cancer, according to latest available returns, is occurring in old age.

The memorandum states that certain varieties of chronic irritation are more liable to be followed by Cancer than others—thus, in the lip long-continued irritation by a clay pipe is particularly dangerous, in the tongue irritation by a jagged tooth or badly-fitting tooth-plate.

It is prudent to notice and remove causes of chronic irritation, continues the memorandum, and in this category of provocative causes of Cancer, which can be guarded against, come the removal of rough stumps of teeth or replacement of badly-fitting dentures, a change of habit, if pipe-smoking is bound to produce soreness on the same spot on the lip or tongue, and an alteration of anything which causes irritation of particular regions of the body.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 23 deaths of infants under one year in the Landward area. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 49 per 1000 births. The following table gives the infantile mortality rates in the various Districts for a number of years:—

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Northern	78	83	50	120	27	65	100	42	55	26
Southern	70	36	51	79	77	88	67	57	83	44
Eastern	43	77	63	112	72	97	85	100	78	65
Western	45	30	67	23	89	24	76	106	38	48
County (Landward)	58	53	56	88	71	80	78	77	72	49

Now that a Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme has been organised, the figures for the Burghs for the same period are appended.

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Castle-Douglas	42	102	—	63	75	98	140	105	60	100
Kirkcudbright	104	77	38	83	57	286	44	56	26	29
Dalbeattie	89	105	78	73	38	48	128	40	53	97
Gatehouse	103	111	38	231	—	—	83	111	—	143
New-Galloway	—	—	—	—	250	—	—	—	250	167

In the Districts and Burghs there were 545 legitimate births and 85 illegitimate births. There were 38 deaths of children under 1 year of age.

MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS. — The following table shows the death rate from Tubercular

Diseases for the past 20 years in the Landward area of the County :—

Year.	Population.	Phthisis.		Other Tubercular Diseases.		Death Rate. per 1000 from Tubercular Disease.
		Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000.	
1904	22,853	34	1·487	11	·481	1·968
1905	22,708	23	1·012	10	·440	1·497
1906	22,571	25	1·107	20	·886	1·993
1907	22,425	35	1·560	13	·579	2·140
1908	22,293	27	1·211	12	·538	1·749
1909	22,156	35	1·579	11	·496	2·076
1910	22,021	18	·817	10	·454	1·271
1911	22,215	14	·630	3	·130	·765
1912	22,085	22	·996	11	·498	1·494
1913	21,178	18	·849	7	·330	1·179
1914	20,801	32	1·538	11	·546	2·067
1915	20,709	24	1·1589	12	·579	1·738
1916	20,489	19	·9273	8	·390	1·3177
1917	20,381	17	·8341	4	·196	1·0303
1918	20,306	21	·993	17	·837	1·830
1919	20,066	19	·946	5	·249	1·195
1920	19,838	17	·856	6	·301	1·159
1921	21,921	14	·638	5	·228	·866
1922	22,244	20	·899	6	·269	1·168
1923	21,509	12	·557	7	·325	·883

For the sake of comparison the death rates for Tubercular Disease over the area of the National Insurance Committee—*i.e.*, the whole County with the exception of the Burgh of Maxwelltown—is shown in the following table :—

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.3096	0.8433	1.0489	.9582	.8300	.8667	1.3354	.6591
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.4365	.4772	.8121	.3080	.3458	.5018	.3815	.4613
	1.7461	1.3155	1.8610	1.2662	1.1759	1.3685	1.7169	1.1204

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. COUNTY LANDWARD.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year in the Landward area was 106, and were distributed over the Districts as follows:—

	Northern.	Southern.	Eastern.	Western.	Total.
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	2	8	3	3	16
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	—	17	4	—	21
Erysipelas	—	1	3	—	4
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	2	—	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—
Trench Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	3	1	1	5
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	12	7	4	26
Non - Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	10	4	7	22
Cerebro - Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	3	7	—	—	10
	9	58	24	15	106

The following table shows the number of Infectious cases notified during the past ten years:—

Disease.	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	61	73	48	30	7	26	30	29	34	16
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	7	4	23	17	12	38	11	20	14	21
Erysipelas	7	6	3	7	3	7	4	11	5	4
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Trench Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	2	25	12	13	5
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	4	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	50	32	37	28	28	27	21	20	16	26
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	30	21	17	21	14	15	17	17	22
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10

None of the diseases appeared in epidemic form.

ENTERIC FEVER.—The County is exempt from this disease, and has been so for a number of years.

DIPHThERIA. — Twenty-one scattered cases of a generally mild type were reported. Two cases proved fatal.

SCARLET FEVER.—Sixteen cases were notified. They were all mild cases. There were no fatalities. The cases were not grouped or closely associated. Though the prevailing type was mild perhaps the number of notifications does not indicate that all cases of mild or atypic Scarlet Fever were either notified or even medically attended.

SMALLPOX.—There were no cases, and no contacts were reported. The number of unvaccinated children continues to mount up.

Chickenpox was made notifiable, but only 10 cases were reported.

With regard to the non-notifiable diseases such as Measles and Whooping Cough, it has to be mentioned that few cases were reported. With regard to Measles a few cases occurred in the Mossdale School area towards the end of January, while one case was reported in the Crockettford School area. Whooping Cough cases, or alleged cases, were intimated from Dundrennan, Shawhead, Colvend, Dalbeattie, and Barnbarroch School areas. In no area was there an epidemic.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangements for dealing with Tuberculosis remain as before, the Medical Officer acting as Tuberculosis Officer. There were no nurses for the work. There are no local dispensaries. Pulmonary cases during the year were sent to Manor Valley, Bridge-of-Weir, and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh. The surgical cases were treated in Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. It was hoped that by the end of the year the sanatorium for the area would have

been ready for the reception of cases, but various delays took place. It will, however, be opened early in 1924.

The following is a brief summary of the work for the year 1923:—

31 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (5 usually non-resident).

3 new cases of General Tuberculosis.

32 new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis affecting the following parts:—

Neck Glands	18
Other Glands	1
Abdomen	6
Nervous System	1
Bones and Joints	6

13 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of General Tuberculosis died within a short time of notification.

5 Pulmonary cases were sent to sanatoria, and one had treatment in Burnside House.

23 Non-Pulmonary cases were treated in Dumfries Infirmary.

3 cases continued to receive domiciliary treatment.

4 cases received domiciliary treatment for the first time.

The shelter huts continue to be taken advantage of.

There is an apparent increase of Tuberculosis cases notified during the year—65 cases as against 49 in the previous year. Excluding the persons not usually resident, there were 26 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis as against 23, and 35 Non-Pulmonary as against 22. The greater part of the Non-Pulmonary cases, such as Cervical Glands, were notified from the Royal Infirmary, and might have been notified at an earlier period. Many medical men have great hesitation in notifying cases until they are satisfied with a positive bacteriological result. A positive examination to most authorities means an advanced case, but one can

sympathise with the feeling of labelling a case Tuberculosis without a positive proof. With regard to deaths, I have to refer to the subject of boarded-out children from industrial areas into our rural areas. Three such were in one house and all died. Perhaps Tuberculosis was not patent when they were sent down, but the fact remains that the notification and death of such increases the incidence and death rate in the Stewartry, as such deaths are not transferable. Everyone admits that such cases have a sporting chance in the country, but means should be devised that their native area should be credited with the incidence and death rate. Another source of addition to the incidence of disease is at present under investigation and may be referred to in a future report.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, AMBULANCES, DISINFECTION.

The hospital arrangements are as previously reported upon and are satisfactory. Motor ambulances are used at both hospitals serving the area. The renewal of furnishings is a necessity, and is being carried out judiciously at both institutions as required. Disinfection in the homes and at the hospitals is carried out on the same lines as before.

With regard to Smallpox, no satisfactory provision has yet been found for the Northern, Southern, and Eastern Districts, and the Burghs of Kirkcudbright, Castle-Douglas, Dalbeattie, New-Galloway, and Gatehouse.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

The arrangements for the treatment of Venereal Diseases are the same as in previous years. Sometimes a difficulty arises as to accommodation for a patient requiring continuous treatment. The Edinburgh authorities kindly placed a bed at the disposal of this area for treatment during the year.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The milk supplies in all four Districts appear to be ample and satisfactory. With regard to the Milk (Special Designations) Order (Scotland), 1923, it has to be noted that only two producers—one in the Eastern District and one in the Southern District—have been registered as selling Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk.

The bacteriological results received monthly from the distributing retail centres have been highly satisfactory. The bacteriological results made on behalf of the Local Authorities were equally satisfactory. There appears to be no difficulty, unless a financial one, in producing a cleaner milk than is generally supplied to the public in the usual way. The good results obtained at the distributing end is of far greater value than those at the producing end, as the test is made from milk that has been on transit for twelve to twenty-four hours. A much higher price is obtained for this class of milk, and deservedly so. It is understood that further applications for licenses are shortly to be received.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT.

In the Northern and Eastern Districts there are no slaughter-houses. There are two small ones in the Southern District, but little is killed in them. In the Western District there are two small ones at Creetown. The great bulk of meat consumed is obtained from Burghs where there is carried out a fairly satisfactory supervision of supplies. No action has been taken with regard to the Meat Inspection (Regulations) (Scotland), 1923, in either of the above mentioned Districts.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS.

No action has been necessary under the above in any of the Districts. Special returns were made to the Board of Health regarding same, and duplicates have been retained.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

The number and classification remain much as before, blacksmiths' and joiners' shops forming the larger number. There is one bakehouse in the Northern District and two in the Western District. All the bakehouses have been well kept.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

So far as known there are no parties using this material in the Districts, and no action has been taken.

CERTIFICATES, REPORTS, INQUIRIES, &c.

The usual inquiries with respect to outbreaks of the usual Infectious Diseases have been made, and also in regard to Tuberculosis cases.

A certificate under Sect. 17, House and Town Planning Act, recommending a Closing Order, was granted in the Eastern District.

A special report in regard to the Proposed Bye-laws of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Water Works was submitted to the County Public Health Committee.

A special report in regard to housing in the Burgh of Kirkcudbright was submitted.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Population at Census 1921 2834

Estimated Population 1923 2792

Births numbered 39. Birth rate per 1000, 14.0.

Illegitimate birth rate, 5.1 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	55	48	50	31
Previous Birth Rates	19.1	16.9	19.7	12.1
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	7.3	10.4	4.0	12.9

Deaths numbered 24. Death rate, 8.6.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	26	42	39	39
Previous Death Rates	9.0	14.8	15.4	15.2

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There was 1 infant death under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 26 per 1000 births, as compared with 55 in 1922, 42 in 1921, 100 in 1920, and 65 in 1919.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year:—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Chickenpox	3

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was treated at Bridge-of-Weir Sanatorium, and one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was treated in Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

Chief Causes of Death.	Death Rates per 1000 of Population.				
	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.716	.347	1.05	—	1.17
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	.39	—
Cancer .....	.716	1.04	1.76	1.18	2.75
Heart Disease	1.432	1.04	2.47	1.96	1.95
Bronchitis	—	1.04	1.41	—	1.17
Pneumonia	—	—	.35	—	1.17
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	.75	—	.39
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	.347	.352	.39	.78
Influenza	—	—	.352	—	—

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Population at Census 1921 8161

Estimated Population 1923 8011

Births numbered 206. Birth rate per 1000, 25.7.

Illegitimate birth rate, 15.5 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	169	174	194	147
Previous Birth Rates	20.4	21.3	25.4	19.1
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	15.4	17.2	19.1	17.0

Deaths numbered 106. Death rate, 13.2.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	104	107	106	113
Previous Death Rates	12.6	13.1	13.9	14.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 9 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 44 per 1000 births, as compared with 83 in 1922, 57 in 1921, 67 in 1920, and 88 in 1919.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1923:—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	8
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	17
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal Fever	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—
Chickenpox	7

Of these, 7 cases of Scarlet Fever and 16 cases of Diphtheria were removed to Fever Hospital, Castle-Douglas; 3 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated in Hospital (Manor Valley, Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, and Dumfries Infirmary), and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated in Dumfries Infirmary.

One of the Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases was notified in 1921, and one of the Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases was notified in 1920.

Chief Causes of Death.	Death Rates per 1000 of Population.				
	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	.13	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	.12	—	.13	.12
Diphtheria .....	.12	—	.12	.13	.25
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.37	1.32	.85	.78	.90
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.37	.48	.24	.13	.38
Cancer	2.24	1.08	.73	1.96	1.94
Heart Disease	2.99	2.29	1.83	2.09	1.42
Bronchitis .....	.87	.36	.98	.91	1.03
Pneumonia .....	.37	.48	.98	1.30	2.33
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	.24	.12	.36	.13	.25
Diarrhoea .....	.12	.24	—	.26	—
Nephritis	—	.60	.12	.13	.25
Influenza	—	.24	.49	—	—

EASTERN DISTRICT.

Population at Census 1921 7772

Estimated Population 1923 7687

Births numbered 155. Birth rate per 1000, 20.2.
Illegitimate birth rate, 14.2 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	167	150	164	145
Previous Birth Rates	21.1	19.3	24.6	21.5
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	17.4	14.7	17.1	18.6

Deaths numbered 85. Death rate, 11.1.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	109	93	113	112
Previous Death Rates	13.8	12.0	16.9	16.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 10 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 65 per 1000 births, as compared with 78 in 1922, 100 in 1921, 85 in 1920, and 97 in 1919.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1923 :—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	3
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup	4
Erysipelas	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4

Of these, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 cases of Diphtheria were removed to Hospital at Castle-Douglas, and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated in Dumfries Infirmary.

Chief Causes of Death.	Death Rates per 1000 of Population.				
	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	.12	.14	.14
Whooping Cough	—	—	.25	—	—
Diphtheria .....	.13	—	—	—	.29
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.26	.75	.51	1.19	.88
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.39	.25	.25	.59	—
Cancer	1.30	1.13	1.41	1.94	1.92
Heart Disease	1.17	1.51	1.67	2.69	1.62
Bronchitis .....	.78	1.01	.25	1.64	1.03
Pneumonia .....	.78	1.13	.90	.44	1.18
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	.26	.25	.38	.29	.14
Diarrhœa .....	.26	—	—	—	—
Nephritis .....	.13	.25	.25	.29	.88
Influenza	—	.25	.25	.29	.44
Enteric Fever	—	—	.12	—	.14

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Population at Census 1921 3154

Estimated Population 1923 3019

Births numbered 63. Birth rate per 1000, 20.9.

Illegitimate birth rate, 14.3 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	52	66	79	42
Previous Birth Rates	16.4	20.9	26.5	13.8
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	9.6	15.2	13.9	4.8

Deaths numbered 51. Death rate, 16.9.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	57	40	50	41
Previous Death Rates	18.0	12.7	16.8	13.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 3 deaths under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 48 per 1000 births, as compared with 38 in 1922, 106 in 1921, 76 in 1920, and 48 in 1919.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1923:—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7

Of these, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Fever Hospital, Newton-Stewart; 1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 7 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated in Dumfries Infirmary. One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified in 1920 was treated in Manor Valley Sanatorium.

Chief Causes of Death.	Death Rates per 1000 of Population.				
	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.65	.63	—	1.00	.98
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.33	—	.31	—	—
Cancer	2.65	1.58	1.26	2.68	—
Heart Disease	1.98	2.21	.95	2.01	1.97
Bronchitis	1.65	1.58	.31	1.67	—
Pneumonia .....	.66	.94	.63	1.00	2.30
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	.66	—	.31	—	.65
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis .....	.99	.94	—	.67	.98
Influenza	—	.63	.31	—	.98

BURGHES.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS.

Population at Census 1921 2801

Estimated Population 1923 2714

Births numbered 50. Birth rate per 1000, 18.4.

Illegitimate birth rate, 16.0 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	67	57	57	51
Previous Birth Rates	23.7	20.3	20.2	18.0
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	14.9	21.1	7.0	9.8

Deaths numbered 41. Death rate, 15.1.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	61	47	50	54
Previous Death Rates	21.6	16.8	17.7	19.0

Death Rates per 1000 of Population.

Chief Causes of Death.	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	.35	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	.36	—	—	—	1.40
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	.35
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.10	1.41	.71	.35	.35
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.10	—	.35	—	—
Cancer	1.84	1.41	1.78	2.83	2.81
Heart Disease	1.84	4.24	2.14	5.30	2.11
Bronchitis .....	.73	.70	—	1.41	.35
Pneumonia	—	2.47	1.78	.35	1.40
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	.35	—	1.05
Diarrhoea .....	.36	—	—	—	—
Nephritis .....	.36	—	1.07	.70	—
Influenza	—	.35	1.78	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 5 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 100 per 1000 births, as compared with 60 in 1922, 105 in 1921, 140 in 1920, and 98 in 1919.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—92 per cent. were notified, as compared with 52 per cent. in 1922 and 43 in 1921.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—There is no scheme for this in the Burgh.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.—Report to the Central Midwives Board and Scottish Board of Health:—

There are no midwives practising in the Burgh.

Total number of births during 1923 52

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth 0

No births attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

No case of Ophthalmia.

No case of Puerperal Sepsis.

Four cases of Still-birth.

TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES.—

These are dealt with under a combination of Local Authorities.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.—Inspections by the Sanitary Inspector are carried out from time to time. The bakehouses have been kept in good order.

SLAUGHTER - HOUSE AND INSPECTION OF MEAT.—The premises continue to be well kept. The Superintendent is a practical man and reports suspicious animals and carcasses to the Veterinary Surgeon, but no special regulations have been drawn up to carry out the inspections under the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland).

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1923:—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	3
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	9
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Chickenpox	1

Of these, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and 9 cases of Diphtheria were removed to Fever Hospital, Castle-Douglas.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Population at Census 1921 2101

Estimated Population 1923 2047

Births numbered 35. Birth rate per 1000, 17.1.

Illegitimate birth rate, 11.4 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	38	36	68	21
Previous Birth Rates	17.9	17.1	35.6	10.8
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	13.2	8.3	11.8	14.3

Deaths numbered 33. Death rate, 16.1.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	38	26	31	39
Previous Death Rates	17.9	12.4	16.2	20.1

Death Rates per 1000 of Population.

Chief Causes of Death.	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	.47	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1.04	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.95	1.88	.47	1.57	2.06
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.48	1.41	.95	1.57	2.06
Cancer	1.95	3.76	.95	.52	2.58
Heart Disease	2.93	3.29	2.85	2.61	3.09
Bronchitis .....	.97	.94	.47	1.57	.51
Pneumonia .....	.97	.47	—	1.57	1.03
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	.47	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis .....	.97	.47	—	.52	1.03
Influenza	—	.94	—	—	1.03

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There was 1 death under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 29 per 1000 births, as compared with 26 in 1922, 56 in 1921, 44 in 1920, and 286 in 1919.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT. — All births registered were duly notified.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—In combination with other Authorities.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.—Report to the Central Midwives Board and Scottish Board of Health :—

There are no midwives practising in the Burgh.

Total number of births during 1923 37

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth 0

No births attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

No cases of Ophthalmia.

No cases of Puerperal Sepsis.

One case of Still-birth.

TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES.—

These are dealt with under a Combination of Local Authorities.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.—Inspections are carried out from time to time. The bakehouses have been kept in good order.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.—

The public slaughter-house has been better kept than in previous years. So far no arrangements have been arrived at for carrying out the provisions of the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland).

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1923 :—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	3
Erysipelas	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Chickenpox	1

Of these, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Fever Hospital at Castle-Douglas, 2 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated in Manor Valley Sanatorium and Kirkcudbright Poorhouse, and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated in Dumfries Infirmary.

DALBEATTIE.

Population at Census 1921 2998

Estimated Population 1923 2880

Births numbered 62. Birth rate per 1000, 21.5.

Illegitimate birth rate, 8.1 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	76	75	86	62
Previous Birth Rates	25.2	25.0	28.2	20.2
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	6.6	5.3	10.5	14.5

Deaths numbered 50. Death rate, 17.4.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	47	48	60	47
Previous Death Rates	15.6	16.0	19.7	15.3

Death Rates per 1000 of Population

Chief Causes of Death.	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever .....	.34	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	.33	—	.32	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	.65	.32
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.34	.66	.33	.98	.97
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	.69	—	1.00	.32	—
Cancer	1.39	1.66	1.00	2.29	1.95
Heart Disease	3.82	.99	3.33	1.31	1.62
Bronchitis .....	.69	.33	.66	.65	1.30
Pneumonia .....	.34	1.32	1.00	1.31	.63
Other Respiratory Diseases	1.73	.66	.33	—	.32
Diarrhoea .....	.69	—	.66	.32	—
Nephritis	1.38	—	.66	.98	.65
Influenza	—	.33	—	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 6 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 97 per 1000 births, as compared with 53 in 1922, 40 in 1921, 128 in 1920, and 48 in 1919.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—All the births registered were notified.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.—In combination with other Authorities.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.—Report to Central Midwives Board and Scottish Board of Health :—

There are no midwives practising in the Burgh.

Total number of births during 1923 64

Total number of deaths within 10 days of birth 3

No births, attended by midwives. Cases attended by doctors.

No case of Ophthalmia.

No case of Puerperal Sepsis.

No case of Still-birth.

TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES.—

These are dealt with under a combination of Local Authorities.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.—Inspections are made as time permits. The bakehouses have been well kept.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.—

The slaughter-house has been well kept during the year. Meat Inspection has been carried out as in previous years. No arrangements have been made to carry out the provisions of the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland).

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year 1923 :—

	Cases.
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	14
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	8
Erysipelas	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Chickenpox	2

Of these, 8 cases of Scarlet Fever and 7 cases of Diphtheria were removed to Fever Hospital at Castle-Douglas; 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were treated at Dumfries Infirmary. One of the cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis treated was notified in 1922.

GATEHOUSE.

Population at Census 1921 893

Estimated Population 1923 851

Births numbered 14. Birth rate per 1000, 16.5.
 Illegitimate birth rate, 14.3 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	19	18	24	19
Previous Birth Rates	21.3	20.2	24.4	19.3
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	21.1	5.6	25.0	5.3

Deaths numbered 12. Death rate, 14.1.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	20	17	15	12
Previous Death Rates	22.4	19.0	15.3	12.2

Death Rates per 1000 of Population.

Chief Causes of Death.	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	2.24	1.01	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1.12	1.12	—	1.01
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.17	—	—	—	—
Cancer	2.35	3.36	2.24	3.05	1.01
Heart Disease	3.52	2.24	1.12	2.03	1.01
Bronchitis	1.17	—	—	2.03	2.02
Pneumonia	1.17	2.24	1.12	2.03	1.01
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	2.03	—
Influenza	—	2.23	—	—	2.02

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 143 per 1000 births.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—Seven out of the 14 registered were notified.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—There is no scheme.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.—There are no midwives. Cases are attended by doctors.

There was one Still-birth.

There was no case of Ophthalmia or Puerperal Sepsis.

TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES.—These are dealt with under a combination of Local Authorities.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.—The usual inspections have been made. The bakehouses have been well kept.

SLAUGHTER - HOUSE AND INSPECTION OF MEAT.—There is one small private slaughter-house which has been fairly well kept during the year. No arrangements have been made to carry out inspections under the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland).

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year :—

	Cases.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1
Erysipelas	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

NEW-GALLOWAY.

Population at Census 1921 348

Estimated Population 1923 342

Births numbered 6. Birth rate per 1000, 17.5.

Illegitimate birth rate, 16.7 per cent.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Births	4	7	3	4
Previous Birth Rates	11.3	20.1	9.7	12.8
Illegitimate Rates per cent.	50.0	14.3	14.3	—

Deaths numbered 10. Death rate, 29.2.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Previous Number of Deaths	4	6	9	4
Previous Death Rates	11.8	17.2	29.1	12.8

Chief Causes of Death.	Death Rates per 1000 of Population.				
	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer	5.84	—	5.74	—	—
Heart Disease	5.84	—	—	6.47	3.19
Bronchitis	—	—	—	6.47	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	6.47	3.19
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	2.87	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	3.19
Apoplexy	—	—	—	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There was 1 death under 1 year of age, giving a mortality rate of 167 per 1000 births.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—All births were notified.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.—The Burgh has withdrawn from the County Scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME.—County Scheme.

VENEREAL DISEASES SCHEME.—County Scheme.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS.—There is no scheme.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.—There are few workshops and all are well kept.

SLAUGHTER - HOUSE AND INSPECTION OF MEAT.—There is one small private slaughter-house which has been well kept during the year. No arrangements have been made to carry out inspections under the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland).

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—One case of Erysipelas was reported.

